



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Impervious Surfaces:

Cleaning Sidewalks, Pavements, Patios, Parking Lots & Driveways

When it rains or when water flows out of yards or over pavement, it flows directly into storm drains. Many people mistakenly believe this water gets “cleaned” before reaching waterways. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance system (drains, inlets and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm drain goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination.

High Pressure Washing or Hosing Down of impervious areas contributes to ocean pollution by picking up contaminants from these surfaces and carrying them to receiving waters via the storm water conveyance system. **Discharges of washwater into the storm water conveyance system are a violation of the City of San Diego’s Municipal Code (§43.0301) and subject to enforcement action.**

CLEANING TIPS

- First assess if water is necessary to remove the substance(s) from the surfaces.
- Use dry clean-up methods, such as a broom, mop or absorbent material for surface cleaning whenever possible.
- If water must be used, use it sparingly. Determine how you are going to capture the water and where you are going to discharge it before starting the wash job.
- Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances that can create hazardous waste.
- Never discharge washwater into the street, a ditch, storm drain, or maintenance hole. Capture and collect the washwater and properly dispose of it.

WHERE AND HOW TO DISPOSE OF WASHWATER

1. With the property owner’s permission, washwater may be discharged onto landscaped areas if private sewer connections are not readily available and as long as there is no runoff and the washwater does not contaminate soil with hazardous pollutants.
Or...
2. Washwater may be disposed of into the sanitary sewer system via a private connection located on the property. Private connections such as an onsite sink, toilet, or lateral cleanout. This discharge must be at a flow rate that does not exceed 20 gallons per minute and must be in compliance with the San Diego Municipal Code § 64.0512.

For specific wastestream advice related to the sewer system, call the City’s Industrial Wastewater Control Program at (858) 654-4100.

Other fact Sheets that may pertain to your activities: *Be A Clean Water Leader: Control, Contain & Capture; Spills; Dumpsters, and Restaurants.*

Adopt these behaviors and help Clean up our beaches and bays. **Think Blue**, San Diego.
For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: www.thinkbluesd.org (01/01/2004)

**Think
&
Act
Blue**

